

down for the third time

she's been examined
biopsied
misdiagnosed by her regular doctor
lasered twice
now she's recovering
from a skin transplant
dysplasia likes young women
it's hard for her to walk
the draining process is interminable
she has a positive attitude
a little depression here & there
it's only natural
3 times now
it's come back
next week she goes in
for an examination
her present doctor is optimistic
I try to be
she's the finest person I've ever known
the dissonant sound of Cecil Taylor
fills the apartment
she's lying on her back
right behind me
we're easing our way cautiously
toward the 11th of this month

vote of confidence

my girlfriend is convalescing
propped on her side
with a 550-piece puzzle
of four parrots
she's talking about her brother
& the reason that he switched
from stand-up to ensemble comedy
"He wasn't getting anywhere like you
with your writing."

— John Levin

Cambridge MA